

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: **Broddin et al.** Examiner: **Le, B.**  
Serial No.: **09/427,810** Art Unit: **2623**  
Filed: **10/27/1999** Dkt No.: **XP-0800**  
Title: **SCREENING METHOD FOR OVERLAPPING SUB-IMAGES**

Mail Stop: Patent Application  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Introductory Comments

Prior to Examination on the merits, please amend the above-referenced patent application as follows: